



LETTER FROM THE MAYOR



Dear Residents:

From shopping to decorating and holiday events and activities, the City of Westminster has an impressive array of holiday events planned for you this year.

SHOPPING

Mistletoe Mart is an annual event sponsored by the Church of the Ascension featuring local crafters and artisans. The Mart will run from November 7-9 from 10am til 8:30 Thursday & Friday; til 5pm on Saturday

5TH Annual Gallery of Gifts at the Carroll Arts Center from November 21-December 23. An exceptional selection of handmade holiday gifts by local artisans.

Book Talk: Holiday gift ideas is sponsored by McDaniel College on November 21 at noon.

Small Business Saturday Shopping Extravaganza on November 30 from 10am-5pm.

Take advantage of special offers as you visit our local shops and restaurants while enjoying the strolling carolers.

Startlight Shopping complete with a tent and snacks at Locust Lane will be celebrated on December 6 from 5-10pm.

DECORATING

16TH Annual Festival of Wreaths will be on display from November 30 to December 8 at the Carroll Arts Center. Come and vote for your favorite wreath—and maybe even buy one to decorate your home.

Mayor's Cup Window Decorating will highlight the decorating skills of our local businesses. The winner will be announced at the December 9 Common Council meeting.

CELEBRATING

Miracle on Main Street Holiday Parade will step off on November 30 at 5pm followed by the...

Annual Christmas Tree Lighting on the Locust Lane stage and ...

Santa's Treat at the Westminster Branch of the Carroll County Public Library.

Winter Wine Warmer is a December 7 fundraising effort by the Historical Society with caroling, tours, wine and hors d'oeuvres. There is a \$25 donation requirement.

Visit with Santa on December 7, 14, and 21 from Noon til 4pm in the Library Park.

The City of Westminster, the merchants and small business owners in the downtown area, and our restaurateurs have joined forces to provide something for everyone during this festive season. Please join us as we celebrate our downtown. See you around downtown.



**“The best way to predict
your future is to create it.”**

-Abraham Lincoln

Be a Good Neighbor This Winter

Although we have not seen any winter weather yet this year, it is important to keep a few things in mind.

After snow and ice stop falling, it's time to clear the white stuff away. Some citizens may have difficulty achieving this task due to age, disability, or other reasons. If you see that a neighbor might need help this winter clearing snow or ice from their sidewalk, driveway, car, or porch, be a good neighbor and lend a hand.

Also, if you see a fire hydrant or stormdrain that is covered in snow, please take time to help emergency responders and Public Works employees by clearing these areas for quick and easy access should an emergency arise and to help avoid melting snow from flooding streets.

Avoid driving and traveling during wintry conditions. If you find that you must leave your home, leave with extra time and drive slowly and carefully. Try not to become upset at another driver going under the speed limit; remember—they are being safe!

Always exercise extreme caution during hazardous conditions and stay safe in the upcoming winter season.

Did You Know? Online Bill Pay!

For several years, the City has had an online system for paying your water and sewer bills. This system allows you to look up your account balance, check your bill and payment history and pay your bill online.

Enjoy these benefits and more:

- You control your credit card information. If you mail your credit card information, you risk someone opening your envelope and stealing your information.
- Your information is handled through a secure web site; you don't need to worry about theft.
- You can see your payment right away; your account is credited immediately.
- You risk the payment not arriving on time or at all if mailed via USPS.
- You can access your account 24 hours a day, no phone calls, no waiting in line.
- You can pay anytime day or night, whenever it's convenient for YOU!
- The City can keep rates low by saving money on the automated service.
- The City must shred all handwritten credit card information adding expense to the cost of doing business.

Go to www.westminstermd.gov; online bill pay services to register and pay on our secure site today!

Personal Safety Tips from WPD

As the holidays approach and we head to the malls for our annual holiday shopping, it's important to practice sound crime prevention and personal safety strategies.

- Park in well-lit areas and walk in groups whenever possible. Have your car keys in hand and ready to use when you reach your car.
- Stay alert and be aware of who and what is around you. Talking on your cell phone distracts you from your surroundings.
- Always close your car windows and lock your car. Scan the interior of your car before getting in to ensure that no one is hidden inside.
- Remove items of value such as cell phones, GPS units and gifts from your car or place them in your trunk or out of view.
- Avoid carrying or flashing large sums of cash. Pay with check or credit card when practical and only carry those cards you think you will use—leave the rest at home.
- Don't overburden yourself with packages. They tend to distract you and make you an easy target for thieves.
- Be extra careful with your purse or wallet. Carry your purse close to your body, not dangling by the straps. Carry your wallet in an inside coat or front pants pocket.
- Teach your children to go to a police officer, store clerk or security person if they get lost.
- **“If you see it... say it.”** Report suspicious activity to the Police Department and store security immediately.



Utilizing these strategies will increase your personal safety and decrease the potential of your holiday being ruined by an unwanted crime. Should you need additional information relating to holiday crime prevention strategies, please call Sergeant Keith Benfer of the Community Education Section at 410-857-9282 or email kbenfer@westgov.com.

Recreation & Parks Dept Now Online!

After months of anticipation, the City of Westminster Recreation and Parks Department can now take program registrations, facility rentals and pool memberships online using Active.com!

The new online system will enable citizens to create an account, which will allow them to register for Recreation and Parks programs, reserve and pay for pavilion rentals, and, come pool season, sign up for pool memberships and pay online using a credit card. By winter of this year it is anticipated that the Westminster Family Fitness Center will begin processing transactions through Active.com.

We are excited to now be able to serve the citizens of Westminster when it is convenient for them; 24 hours a day, seven days a week from the comfort of their own home,” said Abby M. Gruber, Director of Recreation and Parks.

To create your own account, please visit the registration website at <http://activenet.active.com/westminstercityrec>. For more information on programs and events from the City of Westminster Recreation and Parks Department, please visit www.westminstermd.gov, like our Facebook or Twitter pages or call the Recreation and Parks office at 410-848-9161.